



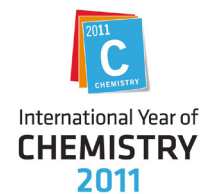
ALICJA BOYD

KRYPTON

Element Symbol: **Kr**

Atomic Number: **36**

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KRYPTON

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Krypton gained fame when a comic book writer used it as the name as Superman's home planet. This was fiction but did give the name Krypton notoriety amongst comic readers and later movie buffs.

Krypton the element is a colourless, odourless and tasteless noble gas that is considered non-toxic to humans. It is present in the earth's atmosphere at about 1 part per million and is quite expensive to extract. Krypton is characterized by brilliant green and orange spectral lines. When in its solid form it is a white, crystalline substance.

When discovered in Britain by William Ramsay & Morris Travers in 1898 it was called Krypton from the Greek word "Kryptos" meaning hidden. They discovered Krypton "hidden" in the residue after liquid air had nearly boiled away. For a period between 1960 and 1983 the orange-red spectral line of ⁸⁶Krypton was used to define the fundamental unit of measure, the meter.

Ionised Krypton gas has a whitish appearance due to multiple emission lines. Light bulbs made with ionized Krypton gas are brilliant white light sources useful in high-speed photography, flash bulbs and high-powered airport runway lights. Krypton gas is also used in energy saving fluorescent lights and an inert filling gas in incandescent bulbs. Combined with other gases Krypton gas can be used to make luminous signs that glow with greenish-yellow light. Krypton is also used as a component in lasers as it has high light power density in the red spectral line region.

Provided by the element sponsor Kerrie Rosenow

ARTISTS DESCRIPTION

Krypton is a rare noble gas, odourless, tasteless and non-toxic to humans. It was discovered in 1898 by two British chemists when they liquefied atmosphere. When it was subsequently warmed up it produced three gases – Neon, Krypton and Xenon. It is used predominantly to make high quality light sources and is a component in photographic flash bulbs. Krypton's name derives from Greek "kryptos" meaning hidden.

To a non-scientific person the name krypton immediately brings to mind images of Superman, his home planet Krypton, and his mates, including the Superdog Krypto, created by a comic book writer in the 1950's. When not accompanying Superman, Krypto spent much of his time roaming the space; while on Earth, however, he stayed with the Kent family, posing as their pet dog. My artwork portrays the Superdog on one of his missions from the planet krypton.

The artwork is a limited edition digital print, composed in Photoshop by using layers of image, texture and text.

ALICJA BOYD